



**Our Righteous and God-bearing Father  
John the Russian, the New Confessor  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on May 27**

The Holy New Confessor John, a native of Russia, was captured during the Russian campaign against the Turks in 1711, and was thereafter sold into slavery in Asia Minor. In this condition he struggled to serve God in piety even while he served his earthly master in all that was needful. He remained steadfast in the Christian Faith in the face of the many enticements the Moslems provided to lure him to their error, and was granted the grace to work miracles by his prayers. He reposed in peace in 1730. His relics remained incorrupt and are found at New Procopion of Euboia in Greece.

*Dismissal Hymn of the Righteous One. Fourth Tone*

**H**E that hath called thee from earth unto the heavenly abodes doth even after thy death keep thy body unharmed, O righteous one; for thou wast carried off as a prisoner to Asia, wherein also, O John, thou didst win Christ as thy friend. Wherefore, do thou beseech Him that our souls be saved.

*Kontakion of the Righteous One. Fourth Tone*  
*On this day Thou hast appeared*

**T**HE all-holy mem'ry of \* thy splendid contests \* on this day is come to us, \*  
and it doth gladden and rejoice \* the souls of all them that honour thee \* with  
faith and reverence, O most righteous Father John.

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Selected hymns  
From  
**THE MENAION**

**VESPERS**

*After the Proemial Psalm, we chant* Blessed is the man. *For* Lord, I have cried,  
*We allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera, repeating them all.*

*Fourth Tone. Unto them that fear Thee*

**T**HY divine memorial hath shone forth bright as the sun today; \* with divine  
rays of fiery light, \* it maketh the faithful shine, \* John, our blessed Father;  
and it driveth off the thick gloom of pains and sufferings, \* and the deep  
darkness of demons is dispersed. \* We therefore call the blessed and each year  
we honour thee joyously \* as our fervent ambassador \* and unshakable  
champion. *(Twice)*

**L**IKE an earthly angel didst thou pass thy life, O divinely-wise, \* and didst  
utterly wither up \* thy body by abstinence, \* standing all the night long, \*  
keeping watch in prayer with the ceaseless memory of death, \* each week  
receiving the Holy Mysteries. \* Through all this, thou, O righteous John, didst  
offer up thyself as a fair \* and acceptable sacrifice \* to the Master of all that is.  
*(Twice)*

**B**Y thine intercessions with the Master, keep and preserve us all \* who now  
honour thy glorious \* and godly memorial, \* John, our blessed Father; \* pray  
to Him to save us from perils, passions, and disease, \* and by thine earnest  
entreaties, drive far off \* His anger and displeasure now aroused against us  
because of sin, \* so that we might proclaim to all \* thy protection and fervent  
care. *(Twice)*

Glory. *Plagal of Second Tone*

**T**oday praise from earthen lips is offered up to the Most High God; for the all-glorious memory of our God-bearing Father John hath shone forth like a radiant sun. For this ever-memorable man, emulating the endurance of much—suffering Job, remained unshaken in the hardships that he endured. For though he was a captive, he put to shame the man-hating enemy, the first cause of our captivity. Wherefore, as we the choirs of the faithful come together, let us cry out: O Good Father, which art in the Heavens, by the entreaties of John, Thy righteous one, grant Thy people the forgiveness of sins and great mercy.

*For the Aposticha, the following Stichera:  
Second tone. When he took Thee*

**C**OME, ye choirs of Angels on this day; \* come, ye hosts of righteous monastics, Anthony great and renowned, \* O divine Euthymius, Sabbas, Arsenius, \* with Alypius, Symeon, \* and all of the stylites, come receive the scion which from Russia sprouted forth, \* even godly John, who is truly \* your disciple and emulator, \* and with him do ye pray in our behalf.

*Verse:* Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

**C**ARRIED off by Hagarenes with force \* as a captive slave and a stranger, O call-acclaimed Father John, \* thou didst dwell within a stable with a life most strange, \* like another much-suffering Job, \* who sat on a dunghill, sighing and afflicted; and while ever pouring out \* streams of fervent tears in great rivers, \* thou didst find Him Whom thou didst long for, \* O thou namesake of the grace of God.

*Verse:* The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

**S**EEING thou hast boldness with the Lord, \* O most righteous John, be a fervent defender keeping us all, \* who in faith now celebrate thy holy festival; \* from all perils deliver us, \* and free us from passions, \* rescue us from every suffering and adversity; \* and by thy divine intercessions, \* grant our souls eternal salvation, \* that we all may honour thee with hymns.

Glory. *Plagal of Fourth Tone*

**T**HE righteous live forever, saith the prophetic oracle, and their reward is in the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High. For John, who was in all things most righteous, though he was carried off into a strange land, seized by barbarians and delivered as a prisoner into their hands, yet he delighted in the

remembrance of God, and acquired virtue as his companion. Wherefore, though he hath died, he liveth forever in the Heavens with all the righteous; and together with them he intercedeth with the Lord in our behalf.

## MATINS

### ODE ONE

*I shall open my mouth*

**A** STABLE today is the majestic place of our festival; \* a slave's sweat and labours are the dainties cheering our souls; an amazing change \* from slavery to kingship, \* from earth unto Heaven, inspireth our song of praise.

**A** DUNGHILL of passions singeth of a passionless Paradise; \* a slave of the pleasures would extol the free man in Christ; \* righteous Father John, \* do not reject the purpose, \* receive what is offered and fill up my grievous lack.

### ODE THREE

*Make steadfast, O holy Theotokos*

**T**HY shrine, though containing thy blest relics, cannot hold thine overflowing grace, \* which is daily poured out in streams \* to all who come to thee with faith; \* for as thou gavest all to Christ, there is no end to thy gifts, O John.

**A** MIDST the oppressive night of bondage, thou shonest invisibly with faith, \* confessing Christ as God of all \* by all that thou didst live and do, \* a sun illuminating all with rays of love and humility.

**O** WELL-SPRING of miracles and healings, pour forth of thy death-destroying floods \* upon thy faithful supplicants, \* all withered as we are with griefs; \* and with thy streams of sympathy, wash clean away every stain of soul.

### ODE FOUR

*Seated in His holy glory*

**T**HEY that called thee Unbeliever were astonished exceedingly \* at the awful wonders that thine unbelief brought to pass in Christ; \* and changing scorn to esteem, they wished to honour thee \* and were more amazed \* that thou didst scorn honour utterly.

**T**HEY who thought to burn thy relics saw thee standing amidst the fire, \* and they fled in terror, learning that thou dost ever live in Christ; \* for, as in life

carnal passions had no hold on thee, \* so now after death, death hath no strength over thee, O John.

ODE FIVE

*All creatures were sore amazed*

**D**ECLINING to end thy bondage by denying the Saviour Christ, \* thou didst keep thy conscience in full freedom; \* and He Who saw thee confessing Him with toils \* hath turned all thy mourning into joy \* and for willing servitude, He adorned thee with miracles.

**A**CCEPTING the will of God in thine external captivity, \* thou didst find that liberty of spirit \* whereby the mind serveth God in ceaseless prayer, \* unfettered by bondage to the flesh, \* and thou wast made one with God in eternal magnificence.

ODE SIX

*On this divine*

**A**PAUPER stripped of all earthly wealth \* hath set forth a magnificent feast for us: \* his trophies won in Christ, his relics wondrous and incorrupt, \* the ever-flowing rivers of signs and miracles.

**B**EFORE, the ordure of animals, \* but now the awesome orders of Angel choirs \* have compassed thee about, \* lauding their Master's beloved friend, \* whose hidden life in Christ now is openly extolled.

OIKOS

**H**OW shall I, wretched as I am, praise thy struggles, O righteous Father? How shall I tell of the deep sea of thy tears? For by thine excellence in this life, thou didst attain to the choirs of the Angels; by abstinence, thou, who art truly wise, didst mortify the passions; and by submitting thyself to hardship, thou madest the flesh subject to the spirit and didst put to shame the prince of darkness. Wherefore, as thou standest even now before the Master's throne, thou intercedest for them that honour thee with faith and rev'rence, O most righteous Father John.

SYNAXARION

✠ On the twenty-seventh of this month we commemorate our righteous and God-bearing Father John the Russian, the New Confessor, who was sold as a slave to a certain Hagerene and was taken by him into Asia Minor, into Procopion, a town of Cappadocia, and struggled there in the ascetical life, and reposed in the Lord in the year 1730.

*Verses*

The captive showed himself to be full of graces,  
As he led away captive the prince of darkness.

On the twenty-seventh John ascended in light.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

**ODE SEVEN**

*No created thing*

**M**IDST thy master's beasts \* abodest thou in poverty, \* travailing inwardly \*  
to find thy mangerborn Lord \* within thy pure heart by sighings and  
ceaseless prayers \* with a fiery faith \* and thy divine humility, which bowed  
heaven to thy pleadings.

**I**N a truceless war, \* unceasing and invisible, \* thou foughtest day by day \* with  
noble valour of soul, \* destroying the prince of this world by thy patient faith \*  
in deliverance \* by Christ the Sovereign Prince of Peace, Who rewarded thee  
with vict'ry.

**ODE EIGHT**

*Three guiltless youths*

**T**HY master who sent thee to his stable, \* made rich through the blessing of  
thy prayerful way of life, \* bid thee take a better place, \* which thou didst  
refuse, O John; \* for what began in servitude, \* thou didst embrace by choice, \* to  
mortify the flesh with its passions, \* whereby thou wast rendered far richer than  
thy master.

**D**ESIRING, before thy soul's departure, \* supply for the journey by the  
Saviour's Mysteries, \* thou wast brought those Holy Gifts \* hidden in an  
apple for fear; \* and thou, who hadst not tasted of the forbidden fruit of sin, \*  
didst soar on high, a worthy partaker \* of the grace that maketh a God of  
earthborn mortals.

**T**HE souls of the Saints, the choirs of Martyrs \* and Angels received thee in  
their thronging companies, \* honouring thee joyfully \* after all the  
mockeries, \* the blows, the scorn, the cheerless life \* of wearied slavery \* thou  
valiantly hadst bourne for thy Saviour, \* Who, as He hath promised, exalted  
thine abasement.





**SAINT IRENAEUS OF LYONS**  
**WITH THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES WHOM HE**  
**(AGAINST HERESIES BK. 3, CH. 11.8) DESIGNATED AS**  
**REPRESENTING THE EVANGELISTS (REV. 4:6-8).**

Courtesy Holy Nativity Convent Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

**ODE NINE**

*Let every earthborn man*

**H**EAR our cries, O John, \* and as thou wast burdened once with want and mockery, \* visit us in our distress; \* and while in joy thou dancest with all the Saints, \* attend to us in pain and sorrow and infirmity, \* weak in virtue, but believing in thy care \* and thy swiftness to help them that call on thee.

**I**f of thine own will \* thou wroughest a wonder for thine unbelieving lord \* on this futile pilgrimage, \* then for us, who are sealed with the blood of Christ, \* do thou assist us all upon our earthly pilgrimage, \* John our Father, \* till we safely reach in joy \* that divine city where thou abidest now.

**W**ITH the plough of prayer \* didst thou till thy soul and thou didst water it with tears, \* till a wondrous Paradise \* sprang up and flourished mightily in thy heart \* and brought forth fruit a hundredfold, which thou dost grant to all \* who invoke thee \* with desire and faith of soul, \* O magnificent John, O our priceless pearl.

*Theotokion*  
*Second Tone. Hearken, ye women*

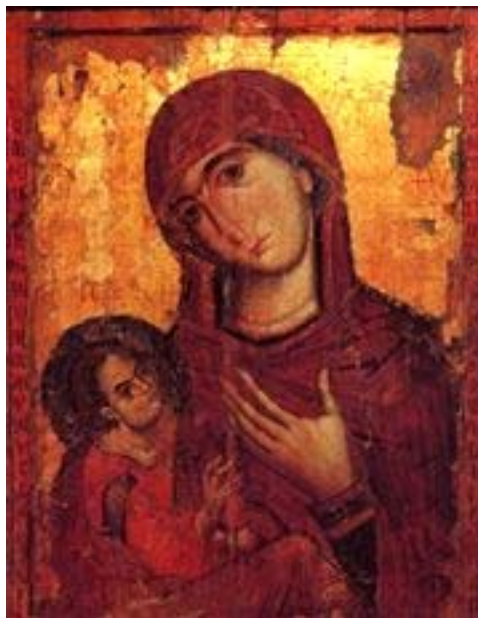
**W**OUNDED and defiled, \* confounded in failings and caught fast in cords of sin, \* I appeal to thee with tears: \* O Virgin, draw me up from the miry pit; \* I set my hope of life on thee, O Lady, save my soul; \* grant me boldness, \* cleansed by thy protective care, \* to draw nigh to thy Son with my conscience clear.

**EXAPOSTILARIA**  
*Second Tone. Hearken, ye women*

**W**HEN they beheld the fearful sight, \* then were the foolish sore amazed; \* a holy light shone with splendour \* upon the grave of divine John. \* Unto the faithful, they made known \* the very wondrous miracle; \* and so when they had digged, they found, like some inviolate treasure, \* John's body, free of corruption.

*And of the Feast,*  
*Or the following Theotokion:*

**O**CENSER golden and most pure, \* thou, Mary, truly art become \* the boundless Trinity's vessel, \* O Theotokos and Virgin; \* in whom the Father was well pleased; \* in whom the Son made His abode; to whom the Holy Spirit came, \* to overshadow and show forth \* as Theotokos, O Maiden.



**ΠΑΝΑΓΙΑ ΟΥ ΣΙΝΑΙ**